



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

www.state.nj.us/health

CLIFTON R. LACY, M.D.
Commissioner

June 17, 2004

Dear Emergency Medical Services Provider;

This letter serves as the formal announcement of the New Jersey State Emergency Medical Services Task Force (EMS TF) initiative; a regionally-based, state-wide EMS program that will enhance the State's current EMS system. The EMS TF will support first responders with an advanced on-call EMS response capability that provides specialized equipment, EMS management support and specialized medical response to mass casualty incidents and chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological and explosive (CBRNE) events.

Under the overall supervision of the Department of Health and Senior Services, and in direct support of the State's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), EMS TFs will provide 24/7/365 medical first responder support to immediate response EMS units and to those EMS units called up during large mobilization efforts.

EMS TF alignment will mirror existing Public Health/State Emergency Management regions to include a northern team managed by UMDNJ-University Hospital EMS, a central team managed by RWJUH EMS, and a southern team with management to be determined. Each regional task force will ensure availability of forty-two Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances, fourteen Advanced Life Support (ALS) units, four special operations, two communications, and two lighting utility vehicles. EMS TFs will train and exercise together ensuring standardization of plans, policy and procedures. Individual Task Force Elements will draw from this pool and provide at a minimum: a command and communication unit, BLS, ALS, and lighting or other special vehicles as required by the situation. DHSS and OEMS will jointly decide on the deployment of EMS TF elements based on a request from OEM or statewide requirements. Once deployed, the EMS TF will report and be responsible to the on-scene Incident Commander.

Task Force vehicle and staff, with the exception of State funded north, central, and south coordinators, will be drawn from EMS units throughout the State on a volunteer basis. Participation is voluntary and open to all EMS unit or providers meeting the criteria noted in Attachment 1. Vehicles participating in the EMS TF will be inspected by DHSS designated EMS TF inspectors and may include DHSS staff and others from either the paid or volunteer EMS community. DHSS, on recommendation from the EMS TF Steering Committee, will define the criteria for EMS TF inspection. EMS TF inspection is solely for the purpose of EMS TF participation.

The EMS TF is but one means of addressing the changing environment of medical care, however, it is a critically important initiative. On behalf of the Department of Health and Senior Services, I thank all EMS providers for their outstanding efforts to date and look forward to your support in as we move into the future.

If you have any questions regarding the EMS Task Force, please contact Mr. Jim Sweeney or Mr. Chuck McSweeney in the Office of Emergency Medical Services at (609) 633-7777. We look forward to your participation in this special EMS initiative.

Sincerely,

David Gruber
Assistant Commissioner